CITY OF MILPITAS

MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2020

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CITY OF MILPITAS
MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

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MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL CONTROL

To the City Council of
the City of Milpitas, California

We have audited the basic financial statements of the City of Milpitas, California, for the year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated November 4, 2020. Our opinions on the basic financial statements and this report, insofar as they relate to Terrace Gardens, Inc., are based solely on the report of other auditors. In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the City, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the City's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Included in the Schedule of Other Matters are recommendations not meeting the above definitions that we believe are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, City Council, others within the organization, and agencies and pass-through entities requiring compliance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Maze & Associates

Pleasant Hill, California
November 4, 2020

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SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS OR PRONOUNCEMENTS NOT YET EFFECTIVE

The following comment represents new pronouncements taking affect in the next few years. We cite them here to keep you informed of developments:

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2020/21:

GASB 84 – *Fiduciary Activities*

The objective of this Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported.

This Statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments. The focus of the criteria generally is on (1) whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. Separate criteria are included to identify fiduciary component units and postemployment benefit arrangements that are fiduciary activities.

GASB 90 – *Majority Equity Interests—an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61)*

The primary objectives of this Statement are to improve the consistency and comparability of reporting a government's majority equity interest in a legally separate organization and to improve the relevance of financial statement information for certain component units. It defines a majority equity interest and specifies that a majority equity interest in a legally separate organization should be reported as an investment if a government's holding of the equity interest meets the definition of an investment. A majority equity interest that meets the definition of an investment should be measured using the equity method, unless it is held by a special-purpose government engaged only in fiduciary activities, a fiduciary fund, or an endowment (including permanent and term endowments) or permanent fund. Those governments and funds should measure the majority equity interest at fair value.

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2021/22:

GASB 87 – *Leases*

The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities.

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 89 – *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*

The objectives of this Statement are (1) to enhance the relevance and comparability of information about capital assets and the cost of borrowing for a reporting period and (2) to simplify accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period.

This Statement establishes accounting requirements for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. Such interest cost includes all interest that previously was accounted for in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 5–22 of Statement No. 62, *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements,* which are superseded by this Statement. This Statement requires that interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period be recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred for financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. As a result, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period will not be included in the historical cost of a capital asset reported in a business-type activity or enterprise fund.

This Statement also reiterates that in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period should be recognized as an expenditure on a basis consistent with governmental fund accounting principles.

GASB 92 – *Omnibus 2020*

The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. This Statement addresses a variety of topics and includes specific provisions about the following:

GASB 93 – *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*

Some governments have entered into agreements in which variable payments made or received depend on an interbank offered rate (IBOR)—most notably, the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). As a result of global reference rate reform, LIBOR is expected to cease to exist in its current form at the end of 2021, prompting governments to amend or replace financial instruments for the purpose of replacing LIBOR with other reference rates, by either changing the reference rate or adding or changing fallback provisions related to the reference rate.

Statement No. 53, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments, as amended, requires a government to terminate hedge accounting when it renegotiates or amends a critical term of a hedging derivative instrument, such as the reference rate of a hedging derivative instrument's variable payment. In addition, in accordance with Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended, replacement of the rate on which variable payments depend in a lease contract would require a government to apply the provisions for lease modifications, including remeasurement of the lease liability or lease receivable.

The objective of this Statement is to address those and other accounting and financial reporting implications that result from the replacement of an IBOR.

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 97 – *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting for and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans*

The primary objectives of this Statement are to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457 deferred compensation plans (Section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans.

EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2022/23:

GASB 91 – *Conduit Debt Obligations*

The primary objectives of this Statement are to provide a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures.

GASB 94 – *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Some PPPs meet the definition of a service concession arrangement (SCA), which the Board defines in this Statement as a PPP in which (1) the operator collects and is compensated by fees from third parties; (2) the transferor determines or has the ability to modify or approve which services the operator is required to provide, to whom the operator is required to provide the services, and the prices or rates that can be charged for the services; and (3) the transferor is entitled to significant residual interest in the service utility of the underlying PPP asset at the end of the arrangement.

This Statement also provides guidance for accounting and financial reporting for availability payment arrangements (APAs). As defined in this Statement, an APA is an arrangement in which a government compensates an operator for services that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an underlying nonfinancial asset for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction.

SCHEDULE OF OTHER MATTERS

GASB 96 – ***Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements***

This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended.

STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR
OTHER MATTERS

2016-05 **Information Systems Best Practices**

We conducted an Information Systems Review with our audit which encompassed the City's financial information system and the network environment that houses it. We expanded our work in previous years beyond simply looking at financial information systems as a result of greater risks of unauthorized access caused by overall industry growth of web-based commerce and internet based financial systems. Internal controls that are present in the overall network environment have become more important and relevant to understanding the internal controls over the financial system. We believe Information System controls must be continuously improved and enhanced to stay ahead of the ever increasing sophistication of hackers and criminals.

Currently, there are no Information Systems standards to which local governments are required to conform. Indeed, there are a wide variety of informal guidelines and suggested controls from many different organizations which local governments can use to implement appropriate controls to ensure adequate security over information technology. A voluntary risk-based Cybersecurity Framework has been developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) per Presidential Executive Order 13636 (12 FEB 2013). The *Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity* version 1.0 (12 FEB 2014) offers a number of appropriate standards. Our Information Systems auditors have reviewed the voluntary framework and concluded that the risk management framework developed by NIST for the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) is the most appropriate for local governments[1]. The NIST risk management framework represents the minimum security requirements for federal government agencies and recommends these controls for private industry and state and local governments.

While the results of our work did not indicate material weaknesses, we noted a few areas which could be improved. A summary of these recommendations which we believe are "best practices" are as follows:

Business Continuity Planning with Regards to Information Technology

The City does not have a formal written information technology business continuity policy. As organizations rely more and more on information technology and electronic data storage for an increasingly wider scope of processes, it becomes more and more important to develop a plan to make those resources available during and after some form of disaster. A formal disaster recovery business continuity policy serves to show management's intent and due diligence for the continuity of operations. A disaster recovery policy or contingency plan should address what to do in case of a disaster and how to prepare for a disaster that cripples or closes the computer center such as a fire, flood, natural or manmade disaster. The City should consider developing and implementing an IT contingency plan which would include procedures for periodic information backup and offsite storage, along with an alternative processing site that would allow the City to continue to operate in the event of a disaster.[2]

[1] "State, local, and tribal governments, as well as private sector organizations are encouraged to consider using these guidelines, as appropriate." NIST SP 800-37 Rev 1 pg 11

[2] For more information see "Contingency Planning Guide for Information Technology Systems" NIST SP 800-34.
[2] For more information see "Contingency Planning Guide for Information Technology Systems" NIST SP 800-34.

**STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR
OTHER MATTERS**

2016-05 **<u>Information Systems Best Practices (Continued)</u>**

Current Status:

Business Continuity Planning with Regards to Information Technology – The City implemented its Business Continuity Plan in December 2018. But since then, the City implemented some major changes to its infrastructure, like moving Exchange and Office applications to Office 365. The City is currently working on moving servers and data services to virtualization and to the Cloud. Due to these changes, the City will be working with a consultant on developing and implementing a new Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan. This project is scheduled in fiscal 2020-2021 as recommended in the Information Technology Strategic Plan.